

one ever does, except vegetarians and people like that.

Besides I have just made arrangements with Dr. Chasuble

to be christened at a quarter to six under the name of Ernest.

*Jack.* My dear fellow, the sooner you give up that nonsense

the better. I made arrangements this morning with Dr.

Chasuble to be christened myself at 5.30, and I naturally

will take the name of Ernest. Gwendolen would wish it.

We can't both be christened Ernest. It's absurd.

I have a perfect right to be christened if I like. Besides,

There is no evidence at all that I have ever been christened by anybody.

I should think it extremely probable I never was, and so

does Dr. Chasuble. It is entirely different in your case.

You have been christened already.

*Algernon.* Yes, but I have not been christened for years.

*Jack.* Yes, but you have been christened. That is the important thing.

*Algernon.* Quite so. So I know my constitution can stand it.

If you are not quite sure about your ever having been

christened, I must say I think it rather dangerous

venturing on it now. It might make you very unwell.

You can hardly have forgotten that some one very closely

connected with you was very nearly carried off this week in

Paris by a severe chill.

*Jack.* Yes, but you said yourself that a severe chill was not

hereditary.

*Algernon.* It usen't to be, I know—but I dare say it is now.

Science is always making wonderful improvements in things.

*Jack.* {Picking up the muffin-dish.} Oh, that is nonsense; you

are always talking nonsense.

*Algernon.* Jack, you are at the muffins again! I wish you

wouldn't. There are only two left. [Takes them.] I told

you I was particularly fond of muffins.

*Jack.* But I hate tea-cake.

*Algernon.* Why on earth then do you allow tea-cake to be

served up for your guests? What ideas you have of

hospitality!

*Jack.* Algernon 1 I have already told you to go. I don't want

you here. Why don't you go I

*Algernon.* I haven't quite finished my tea yet! and there is

still one muffin left.

{*Jack* groans, and, sinks into a chair. *Algernon* still continues eating.

ACT DROP